

## POST SHORTS

### Recycling schedule

There is no recycling pickup on July 4.



### Reduced gate hours

There will be reduced gate operations at Aberdeen Proving Ground in observance of the 4th of July holiday. The Harford Gate, or Route 22 in APG North, will close 10 p.m., July 3 and reopen 4 a.m., July 5.

The Wise Road Gate, or Edgewood Road in APG South, will close 8 p.m., July 3 and reopen 4 a.m., July 5.

The Maryland Gate in APG North and the Magnolia Road Gate in the APG South will be open throughout the holiday period.

### APG to participate in Havre de Grace's July 4th Parade

Col. John T. Wright, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander; the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own); and the APG Fire and Emergency Services' Color Guard will participate in the Havre de Grace July 4th parade 2 p.m., June 30, along Union Avenue. Wright will serve as the grand marshal for the parade.

### Veterinary Clinic closings

The APG Veterinary Treatment Facility will be closed June 30 and July 31 for end of month inventory. The VTF will be open 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on July 2, 3, 5, 6 and 9 due to shortage of staff and will return to normal hours July 10. The facility also will be closed on July 4 for the Independence Day Holiday.

For more information, contact the VTF, 410-278-3922/4604.

### Top of the Bay price increase

Effective July 1, Top of the Bay will redesign their lunch program. The hot buffet will become self-serve and will include a side salad, fruit punch or iced tea, rolls and butter and will cost \$7.95 per person. Carry out buffets will cost \$8.25 per person.

The sandwich and salad bar will remain the same.

See **SHORTS**, page 7

## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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# Robinson assumes command of APG, RDECOM

Story by  
**YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

The leadership of the installation changed hands June 19 as Maj. Gen. Roger A. Nadeau turned over command of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command to Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr. during a change of command ceremony at Fanshaw Field.

Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, led the ceremony which included the traditional passing of the guidon, led by acting RDECOM Sgt. Maj. Steve Hornbach.

Nadeau moves on to assume command of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command at Alexandria, Va.

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his "exceptionally meritorious service from October 2004 to June 2007," signed by Secretary of the Army Pete Geren.

Griffin praised Nadeau's command and said that the passing of the colors signifies not only a change of command but the responsibility that comes with it.

"A seasoned command-



Photo by SEAN KIEF, GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER  
From left, Maj. Gen. Roger A. Nadeau, former commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command and Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr., salute the colors during the change of command ceremony installing Robinson as the new APG and RDECOM commander.

er is leaving here, and it is a seasoned commander we are bringing in," Griffin said.

He said that Nadeau earned his award "by getting Soldiers what they need on the battlefield."

"He never lost sight of the number one priority; supporting our men and women fighting, or getting ready to fight in the War on Terror," Griffin said.

Naming each organization within RDECOM, Griffin

added, "And he was backed up by a great team."

He said that Robinson brings with him the experience of a front line Soldier and division commander.

"You're losing a great com-

mand team but you're getting a great command team," he said. "I am honored to be here today to pass these colors, and I am honored to command the Army Materiel Command."

See **RDECOM**, page 2

# Preventing injuries this Fourth of July holiday

Johns Hopkins Medicine and DSHE

Fireworks are a Fourth of July tradition to celebrate Independence Day, but unfortunately so are the injuries they cause.

More than 50 percent of all fireworks-related eye injuries occur around the Fourth of July holiday, and approximately 12,000 Americans are admitted to emergency rooms every year for fireworks-related injuries, according to the United States Eye Injury Registry. They report that almost half of those injured are bystanders, and nearly 400 patients

lose vision in one or both eyes because of their injuries.

Michael Grant, M.D., Ph.D., an ophthalmologist and director of the Ocular Trauma Service at The Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute, said bottle rockets are the most common fireworks to cause eye injury.

"Seventy percent of all serious fireworks-related eye injuries are caused by bottle rockets, and more than two-thirds of these injuries take place at home," Grant said. "These eye injuries are generally very serious and frequently lead to a significant loss of

vision and may ultimately result in loss of the eye. The most important thing you can do to prevent injuries is to not use any fireworks of any kind at home and leave fireworks to the professionals."

Rick Johnson, chief, APG Installation Safety Division, agrees. "Most fireworks are prohibited in Maryland and Harford County, so for the best Family entertainment everyone would be best served by attending a fireworks display in their local community," Johnson said. "However, if you really want your own fireworks, Har-

ford County allows sparklers and ground based sparking devices that are non-aerial and non-explosive [referred to as "fountains"], paper wrapped snappers, and snakes that contain no mercury and are not regulated by the Department of Transportation.

However, just because these are legal for consumers, doesn't mean they can use used anywhere, according to the APG Fire Chief Ed Budnick. He advises that they only be used outside, in open areas and away from any combustibles.

"Because of the recent drought, everyone should be especially careful to extinguish any fireworks with water," Budnick said. "Even after they burn out, they can be still hot enough to start a grass fire."

"And for anyone going on TDY [temporary duty travel] or traveling over the holidays, travelers are reminded that the Federal Aviation Administration prohibits fireworks of any kind on any flight," Johnson said. "They cannot be checked as baggage or included in carry on bags."

See **SAFETY**, page 8

# Montgomery Gentry returns to proving ground in September

Story by  
**YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

Country music's hottest duo, Montgomery Gentry, will return to Aberdeen Proving Ground to headline the Army Concert Tour Saturday Sept. 29.

The group performed for more than 10,000 screaming fans during its first visit to APG in 2004. The concert sold out weeks in advance so fans should be sure to get their tickets as early as possible.

Special guests include Joe Nichols, who is known for his Top 10 hits, "What's a Guy Gotta Do" and "Tequila Makes Her Clothes Fall Off" and Grammy Award-winning songwriter-turned-singer Shaunna Bolton, who has worked with the likes of Jo Dee Messina, Neal McCoy, and John Michael Montgomery as well as Montgomery Gentry.

Tickets go on sale soon. Watch for upcoming early bird specials. For more information visit the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Web site at [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com).

Government ID card holders are eligible to use all services advertised on the MWR Web site.

### Montgomery Gentry

Montgomery Gentry is credited with helping kick-start 21st century country.

The duo is already well known for their blue-collar anthems and songs about life, work, love, loss and patriotism balanced by their hard-partying spirit that takes the edge, as Eddie Montgomery likes to say.

Now, with their latest album 'Some People Change,' Montgomery Gentry takes yet another important step forward. Some People Change is an incredibly rich collection that reflects the continued maturing of Montgomery Gentry on a number of levels.

"We're always trying to better ourselves both in the studio and on stage," said Troy Gentry. "We keep honing our skills from doing it so often, but really, we're a work in progress."

The duo's string of hits since they came together in 1999 include "Hill-billy Shoes," "Lonely And Gone," "Daddy Won't Sell The Farm," "She Couldn't Change Me," "My Town," "Speed," and "Hell Yeah," "Gone" and "If You Ever Stop Loving Me."

They were named the Country  
See **CONCERT**, page 10

# Applying for retirement

CPAC

It is critical that all retiring employees who are eligible for retirement based on age and length of service are aware of the approximate monthly annuity benefits (commonly called an "estimate") that they will receive before making the decision to retire.

Serious errors include those where an employee receives inaccurate or untimely annuity estimate information which is discovered after retirement resulting in the employee asking to be returned to duty because he/she cannot afford to live off of actual retirement annuity. Additionally, there is the potential for an employee to receive accurate information, but

misunderstand that information.

"The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center and the Army Benefits Center-Civilian will work together to ensure that the necessary steps are taken to prevent such situations," said Diane J. Smith, director, CPAC. "It is understood that employees can independently initiate their retirement without contacting the CPAC.

CPAC services are offered to employees in terms of checking retirement applications and answering general questions. Annuity estimates must be obtained from the ABC-C."

### Receiving retirement counseling

Although an employee may obtain assistance from the CPAC.  
See **RETIREMENT**, page 9

# Sexual Assault Prevention: CID provides tips on how to minimize the chances of becoming a victim

CID

Although Sexual Assault Prevention month has passed, the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command wants to keep sexual assault prevention in the forefront by educating the Army community about ways to avoid becoming the victim of sexual assault and what to do if victimized.

According to CID Special Agent Stephanie James, sexual assault is a crime that occurs between two or more people and there are numerous ways individuals, particularly females, can minimize the chance of becoming a victim.

James said people should always be alert and learn to trust their instincts in all situations.

"If a place or person makes you feel unsafe, it probably is," emphasized James, who has successfully investigated hundreds of cases throughout her career. "People should always look for signs of trouble such as strangers in private areas or persons loitering in suspicious places, or people who make you feel uncomfortable. If you sense trouble, trust your instincts and get to a safe place as soon as possible. If you feel you are in danger, attract help anyway you can."

According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, or RAINN, and the Army's Sexual Assault Prevention Program's Web site, about two-thirds of sexual assault victims in the United States knew their assailants.

"Acquaintance rape," which includes date rape, refers to those rapes that occur between people who know one another.

"Date rape" refers to situations in which one person has consented to go on a date with another person and that person then rapes him or her. Another statistic backed by numerous studies indicates that about half

of all U.S. sexual assaults involve the use of alcohol by the offender, the victim, or both.

According to a CID spokesman, the Army community in which Soldiers and their Families live and work is safer when compared to civilian communities and national crime statistics. The majority of sexual assaults or rapes investigated within the Army community are not the type of crimes that include a stranger breaking into a victim's house or hiding in their car, although it can and does happen, but are more likely between persons who know each other or share some familiarity.

"We find that many allegations of sexual assault occur on weekends when a Soldier consumes alcohol in excess and returns to their quarters afterward," James said. "When a Soldier is unconscious from too much alcohol, they are unable to give consent. In this situation, if an individual proceeds to have sex with an unconscious person or a person who is unable to consent, they are committing a crime."

James stressed two points that she feels are very important in reducing the possibility of becoming the victim of an assault in "acquaintance-type crimes."

"Bottom line, women need to lock their doors wherever they reside; especially in a barracks," James said. "Regardless of how safe or trusting a person might feel living in their barracks or residence, they should always be mindful of security and lock their doors when they enter."

The second point is using the buddy system. James said that women should always use the buddy system when going out – especially if they are going to drink alcohol.

"Use the buddy system and if a female needs help getting back to their barracks or residence, ask a

See **PREVENTION**, page 14



# Office Eagle appreciates its customers



Story and photos by  
**YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

A festive atmosphere greeted customers and guests to the Aberdeen Proving Ground Office Eagle stores' Customer Appreciation Day celebrations May 22 and 23.

At the APG store, Office Eagle employees dressed as clowns mingled with visitors, there was a dunking booth, and the vendor displays of supplies and equipment available in the store included carnival-like games guests could play for prizes. Guests also signed free raffle tickets for chances to win prizes that included DVD players, keyboards and other office equipment.

"This is a great turnout," said store manager Barry Council. "We try to do this every year for the community which supports Office Eagle throughout the year."

Council thanked the caterer "Where Pigs Fly" of Dover, Del., which provided a free lunch of pit chicken or pork sandwiches, baked beans, salads, chips, desserts, sodas and bottled water.

Visitors and vendors seemed to enjoy themselves.

Vendor displays ranged from standard office equipment to cutting edge technologies.

The Avery office products and Envision displays featured labels, dividers and zip lock, trash, and bio-degradable medical environmental trash bags while sales representative Mike Edwards, representing several companies, featured XGO military layered shirts, protective eyewear and assault gloves.

"All of our supplies are sold in the Office Eagle stores," said Weldon Walker, national account manager for Avery Office Products.

Envision representative Kathie Goode said that like most of the companies that do business with Office Eagle, her company provides jobs and other resources for the blind.

"My main job is to go out and get orders to bring in more people," said John MacDonald, sales manager for Delaware Industries for the Blind whose display featured picture frames, plaques, pen sets and embroidered logos.

"The more people buy, the more people I can hire," he said.

"This is just what I'm looking for," said Brenda



Kathleen Belsan, Directorate of Information Management LogSec Team, right, gets her raffle ticket from employee Ruth Bordmann, left, during the Office Eagle Customer Appreciation Day celebration at building 320 May 22.

Kauffman of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory as she looked over an Ark II Emergency Survival Kit at the South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind display which included an Electrolyte Replacement Drink Mix.

Kauffman said she tries not to miss the customer appreciation days and that the kits would come in handy during her office's upcoming partnership training.

Other participants included Grainger Industrial & Commercial Supply; ABM Computer and Imaging Supplies; the MSC-Ind. Supply Company; Skilcraft; Thomas Scientific and State Industrials.

Products available for sale through Office Eagle stores are primarily items provided to the federal government under the AbilityOne (formerly the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, or JWOD), a mandatory source of supply for all federal government employees. These products are manufactured by

non-profit agencies throughout the United States that employ people who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

Blind Industries is able to offer products that deliver both quality and value while also employing people who are blind and visually impaired. In addition to selling the products they manufacture, Blind Industries is also a direct source for JWOD, SKILCRAFT and Commercial products that are made across the country by Americans who are blind.

Blind Industries operates five Office Eagle Supply Center Stores on military installations throughout Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky and the District of Columbia. These stores provide a full range of quality office supplies, tools, cleaning supplies and military clothing items to satisfy same day requirements with next-day availability/delivery of non-stocked products.



From the top, protective eyewear, tactical gloves, plaques and trophies, supply catalogs, notebooks, logos, laboratory supplies, vise grips and keyboards are only some of the products and services available at Office Eagle stores.

## RDECOM

From front page

Nadeau thanked all in attendance particularly the two busloads of eCYBERMISSION youths, winners of the national science learning program supported by RDECOM organizations, from around the country.

"They are the best of the best in the nation and I'm really going to miss being involved with them," Nadeau said.

He expressed thanks to everyone who supported APG or worked for RDECOM organizations, including employees, contractors, service members, and their families; in particular Garrison commander Col. John T. Wright and his wife Tammy, the RDECOM and AMC headquarters staff members, organizational leaders and county and state officials.

He gave special thanks to former and current members of the command suite staff, including former RDECOM Command Sgt. Maj. Eloy Alcivar who he said, "Just silently made sure that things got done around here," and to his current and former aides, Capt. Brian Hoffman and Maj. Jack Kredon.

"It is with great pride and much reluctance that I give this flag to you," Nadeau told Robinson. "I'm very proud of what this team has accomplished. I envy you the challenges facing you, and I wish you well."

Robinson said that he already has "a growing appreciation for the remarkable work done [at APG] by a remarkable workforce."

"It is with great honor that I accept the colors of this command," he said.

He thanked everyone that "worked so hard to put on this ceremony" and asked all to "keep our Soldiers and their families in your thoughts and prayers."

Chaplain (Maj.) Fred D. MacLean offered the invocation and the U.S. Army

Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School salute battery conducted a howitzer gun salute.

The 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) provided music for the ceremony which included the new Song of the Army Materiel Command, "Arsenal for the Brave," written by band members Sgt. 1st Class Robert Bauerle and Spc. Amanda Justice.

In addition, the new RDECOM logo appeared for the first time on the cover of the program. Known as the RDECOM 'angel fish,' the logo was designed by Kim Wilson and Katie Everett.



Photos by SEAN KIEF, GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER  
Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, left, passes the RDECOM colors to Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr., incoming commander of APG and RDECOM.



The U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School salute battery fires a salute during the playing of Honors to the Nation by the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own).

### Maj. Gen. Fred D. (Doug) Robinson Jr. Commander of APG and RDECOM

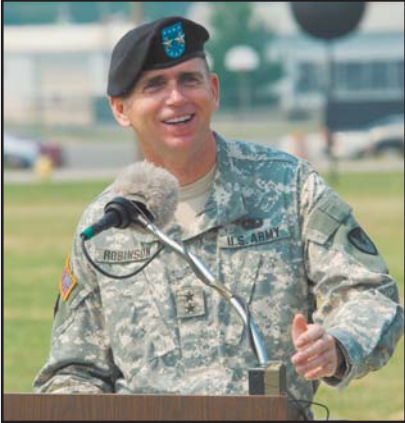
Robinson was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1976 after graduating from the University of Tennessee at Martin. He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and master's degrees in systems engineering from Memphis State University and National Security and Strategic Studies from the National Defense University. His military education includes the Armor Officer basic and advanced courses, the Army Command and General Staff College and the National War College.

Past assignments include 2nd Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas; 3rd Infantry Division, U.S. Army Europe; 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Ks; and executive officer of the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor during Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

In addition, he served as the deputy director for operations at the National Military Command Center; as commander of the U.S. Army Operational Test Command, Fort Hood, Texas; division commander for maneuver, 1st Armored Division; Director of Operations, Readiness and Mobilization, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G3/5/7; and commanding general, 1st Armored Division, Wiesbaden, Germany.

Robinson's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal; the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit; the Bronze Star Medal; and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal as well as the Meritorious Service Medal; Army Commendation Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Southwest Asia Service Medal; Kuwait Liberation Medals (Saudi Arabia and Kuwait); the Parachutist Badge; the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge; and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Robinson is married to his wife of 33 years, Reva and they have two adult children, Megan and Matt.



## APG News

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21005-5001; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; send a fax to 410-278-2570; or send e-mail to editor@apg.army.mil.

Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday's paper.

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# Willingness to learn, accept greater responsibilities motivate newly appointed garrison deputy commander

Story by  
**HEATHER TASSMER**  
APG News

“Keeping an open mind and having the willingness to learn go a long way,” said Tim McNamara after assuming the position of the new deputy to the garrison commander May 3.

McNamara, who served as the director of the Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment for 10 years, described aspiring to become the deputy to the garrison commander as a “natural progression.”

“I had expressed interest years ago on expanding my experiences,” McNamara said. “I confirmed with Mr. [Joseph] Craten [the previous deputy] regarding other possible assignments and opportunities to prepare me for other jobs. I can’t say a lot grew out of that



Photo courtesy of TIM MCNAMARA  
*Tim McNamara, deputy to the garrison commander, left, uses the ‘jaws of life’ during training at the University of Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute in the fall of 2006. Command Sgt. Maj. Elvis Irby and Col. John T. Wright assist.*

other than my willingness to serve in a greater capacity.”

When Craten retired, he and Col. John T. Wright, garrison and deputy installation commander, asked McNamara if he would be interested in serving as acting deputy. In addition, McNamara entered a program recommended by Installation Management

Command Executive Development Assignment Program and applied for consideration.

After two days of working as acting deputy, Phil Sakowitz, executive director of the IMCOM, offered McNamara the job permanently, and he accepted.

Serving as deputy to the garrison commander has both

challenges and rewards, McNamara said.

“These challenges are due to the transitions APG is experiencing such as base realignment and closure and NSPS,” he said.

McNamara said that he is working with the garrison team to prepare for BRAC construction projects, the care of departing organizations and ensuring the success of the incoming organizations.

He said another challenge is “reorganizing the organization to meet headquarter’s expectations, which is balancing all the demands of those we serve.”

“There’s a lot going on, and people are working full tilt to try accomplish all that and help be part of the team that sets the vision, gives direction and prepares us to meet all those challenges. That is what is most rewarding about it,” he said.

McNamara discussed what his goals were to meet the

**See MCNAMARA, page 5**

# Product recalls keep food supply safe

Story by  
**LYNDA VALENTINE**  
DeCA

The Defense Commissary Agency understands customers’ concerns regarding food safety and is committed to providing a safe and secure shopping environment for its patrons.

When it comes to food safety, DeCA engages its stringent, multitiered system to ensure quick and complete removal of suspect items from store shelves throughout the world whenever a food or product recall is issued.

The recall process begins when an item is suspected of being contaminated or otherwise unfit for consumption or use, according to Army Col. Perry Chumley, DeCA’s director of Public Health, Safety and Security.

Chumley said no matter the source, when DeCA receives a recall alert, the first order of business is to determine whether or not the product line or manufacturer is part of the DeCA inventory. That job falls to the DeCA’s sales directorate, which purchases and tracks the thousands of products bought for resale in the commissary system.

If any commissary stocks the same



brand name as the item in the recall, the sales directorate staff determines if the product DeCA sells matches the actual product being recalled. This is the part of the advisory or recall process that confuses most customers.

When a lot number matches the item being recalled, the matching lot numbers are immediately removed from the shelves and placed on hold. Some companies, however, will ask DeCA to remove its entire stock of a product even if only one lot number in their company’s line is recalled. Other times, companies will request that just the item indicated in the recall be removed, leaving other products with the same name on the shelves for cus-

tomers. This is why an entire product line may be removed following a recall, but why other times similar products remain on the shelves for commissary patrons.

Items listed on a recall go into the medical holding areas of commissaries, where signs are placed on the items stating they are on medical hold. Each commissary has an employee responsible for ensuring every item remains off the shelf until either cleared for sale or removed from the facility. That employee counts the items when they are put into the holding area, and ensures that the initial count remains the same until the items are released for sale or removed from the facility.

To ensure there are no mix-ups along the way, “numerous redundancies are built into the system, both internal and external to DeCA,” Chumley said. “In addition, anytime a recall comes out through the media and before they get the word from us, local commissary managers have the authority to pull items off their shelves if they feel the items might not be safe.”

For information about recalls and other items of interest at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Commissary, log onto <http://www.commissaries.com/stores/html/store.cfm?dodaac=HQCNEJ>.

## McNamara

*From page 4*

challenges the new position brings.

“I’d like to help ensure we’re poised for this growth we are getting ready to undertake, servicing those who are here to serve and doing those things efficiently and effectively,” he said. “I’m attempting to instill greater strategic approaches to issues so we’re not just focused on the day-to-day issues but integrating the vast amount of missions and making sure our customer base is poised for success.”

McNamara said his short term goals include helping to provide a smooth transition for the new commanders, “giving them confidence in our workforce to let them know we have an excellent workforce to meet the upcoming challenges,” McNamara said.

He discussed how working as the deputy to the garrison commander is different from serving as director of DSHE.

“The nature of DSHE forces you to be attuned to the risks and hazards associated with many missions that go on here... whether you’re talking about people’s personal safety or being prepared to respond to emergencies or managing environmental matters associated with those actions,” he said. “The job here has a much broader perspective and varying customer base with the people I interact with.”

He started working for the Environmental Management Office at APG in April 1983 almost right after graduating from college.

McNamara said he became

interested in the Army after writing a research paper on the Army’s environmental program.

He knew Ken Stachiw, who was the chief of the EMO at the time and later became McNamara’s boss and mentor.

“I was fortunate that when a position came open and I applied, I was selected,” he said. “So began my federal career.”

During the 80s, APG and the Army’s environmental program grew because of watershed events that happened at APG, McNamara said.

“I was along for that ride.” “As things grew, I did what I was asked to do and was willing to accept greater responsibility so I started to progress in my career with different assignments.”

McNamara became chief of the Environmental Compliance Division in 1994.

Three years later, he was notified he had to serve as the acting director of DSHE for two weeks because Joseph Craten was temporarily serving as the deputy to the garrison commander. Then, Craten took on the position permanently which made McNamara the permanent director of DSHE.

Although he works long hours to support Garrison activities, McNamara said he still makes time for his Family which includes his wife, Grace, and daughters, 18-year-old Brianna and 16-year-old Allyson.

He said that his job doesn’t have as much of a negative effect on the Family since his children are grown and his wife works long hours as well.

“The girls are used to knowing dad’s at work,” he said. “We understand and respect one another’s responsibilities.”

He serves on the parish

council and several committees for St. Stephen’s Catholic Church, and he also enjoys golf and playing basketball.

McNamara said he is grateful for the opportunity to be given the responsibility in his new position and thanked those who have helped him along the way.

“I’m blessed and honored to be serving in the capacity of deputy to the garrison commander, and I’m also smart enough to know I didn’t get here solely on my own accord,” he said. “I’ve been extremely fortunate to work with extremely motivated and capable people who did their jobs well and were problem solvers. My success is built upon their hard work and I’m very grateful for that.

“I also know the garrison leadership team with its directors and office chiefs are equally dedicated people and have built great teams to make us successful so I’m very much looking forward to serving with them and moving the garrison forward,” he said.

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[www.apgnews.apg.army.mil](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil)



# Community Notes

**MONDAY**

**JULY 2  
TOASTMASTERS CLUB  
MEETING**

Gunpowder Toastmasters Club 2562 will hold its regular meeting 11:40 a.m. at the Gunpowder Club in APG South.

The club is open to anyone on or off post who wants to improve their communication, leadership and listening skills and overcome the fear of speaking in public. For more information, call Len Kolodny, 410-734-6573.

**SUNSET CRUISE**

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Sunset Cruise on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$12 for children under 10 years of age. The ship will cruise around the Susquehanna Flats and upper Chesapeake Bay. Reservations can be made with credit card. Call for departure times.

For more information or for reservations, call 410-939-4078.

**TUESDAY**

**JULY 3  
FIREWORKS CRUISE**

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Fireworks cruise, 7:30 p.m., on board the Skipjack Martha Lewis for viewing the Havre de Grace fireworks display. Cost is \$50 per person (must be over 21 years of age) and includes a relaxing cruise with wine, beer, sodas and light fair followed by the best view of the fireworks. Passengers can board the Skipjack Martha Lewis at Hutchins Park, located at the foot of Congress Avenue in Havre de Grace. Reservations are required and payments can be made with credit card.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 410-939-4078.

**THURSDAY**

**JULY 5  
BOORDY VINEYARD  
WINE CRUISE**

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Boordy Wine Cruise, 7 to

9 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$30 per person (21 years of age or older). The ship will cruise around the Susquehanna. Wine from Boordy Vineyard, soda, beer, cheese and light appetizers will be served. Reservations can be made with credit card.

For more information or for reservations, call 410-939-4078.

**FRIDAY**

**JULY 6  
HAPPY HOUR CRUISE**

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Happy hour cruise onboard the Skipjack Martha Lewis departing at 5 p.m.

Passengers can board the ship at Tydings Park, 352 Commerce Street, Havre de Grace. Tickets cost \$35 per person (must be over 21) and includes a two-hour cruise around the Susquehanna Flats area, beer, soda and light appetizers.

Reservations required. Credit cards will be accepted.

For more information, to make a reservation or to purchase tickets, call 410-939-4078.

**FIRST FRIDAY SPECIAL  
CRUISE**

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a First Friday Cruise, 7 p.m., onboard the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Passengers can board the boat at Tydings Park, 352 Commerce Street, Havre de Grace. Tickets cost \$35 per person (must be over 21 years of age) and include a two hour cruise around the Susquehanna Flats area, bottled mixed drinks, beer, soda and light appetizers. Reservations are required.

For more information, to make a reservation or to purchase tickets, call 410-939-4078.

**SATURDAY**

**JULY 7  
GEAR FOR GOOD  
DONATION DRIVE**

Tastykake, in conjunction with the Aberdeen Ironbirds and Weis Markets, will host a “Gear for Good” sporting equipment donation drive, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., July 7. Donations will be accepted at the Weis Market located at 943 Pulaski Highway in Havre De Grace. In exchange for a donation of new or gently used sporting equipment, visitors will receive a coupon for a free Tastykake family pack. Appearances will be made throughout the day by Ferrous, the official Aberdeen Ironbirds’ mascot, and Kirbee, Tastykake’s lovable life-size Krimpet mascot. All donated equipment will go to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Harford County.

For more information, call Kristin Coleman, 484-362-1434, or e-mail kcoleman@fcfschmidtpr.com.

**STORM CHASERS  
CRUISE**

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Storm Chasers Cruise, 7 to 9 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$35 per person (must be over 21) and includes mudslides and hurricanes and munchies.

Passengers will help the crew of the Martha Lewis chase away the summer storms. Reservations required.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 410-939-4078.

**SUNDAY**

**JULY 8  
SHAKESPEARE IN THE  
PARK –THE TEMPEST**

The Havre de Grace Arts Commission will present Shakespeare in the Park, The Tempest, 6:30 p.m., on the lawn between the Maritime and Decoy Museums at Market and Lafayette Streets, Havre de Grace. The play is an Olney Theatre Center for the Arts National Players production. The play is free. There is no rain location. Bring chairs, blankets and picnics.

For more information, call 410 939-5544.

*(Editors Note: More calendar events can be seen at [www.apgnews.apg.army.mil](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil) under Community Notes.)*

## Aberdeen Summer Concert Series

The town of Aberdeen will hold its annual Summer Concert Series 7 p.m., each Tuesday in Festival Park. Refreshments will be available. In the event of inclement weather, all performances will be held in Aberdeen Middle School's multi-purpose room.

**July 10** - No Pro Bono, Aberdeen's own Councilman Mike Hiob and partners Mark Boyle and Paul Scott

**July 17** - Just Foolin' Around Band

**July 24** - Don Shappelle

A singer, songwriter from Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Don's songs

**July 31** - The 389th Army Jazz Band (AMC's Own)

**Aug. 7** - Chuck Baker Orchestra

**Aug. 14** - Bay Country Gentlemen celebrate their 29th anniversary

**Aug. 21** –The Upper Chesapeake Chorus, Sweet Adelines International

## Host families needed

One hundred volunteer host families are needed to “adopt” two players each for the 2007 Cal Ripken World Series in Aberdeen, Aug. 8 to 18. Game dates are Aug. 11 to 18.

Volunteer parents will be required to provide beds for two players, food, housing, transportation and more.

Host Families will receive T-shirts, a Host Family celebration, a gift bag with an activities guide and coupons to support the Host Family's experience.

Teams include the Maryland State Champions, a Harford County representative team, teams from eight regions across the United States and six international teams from Japan, Canada, Australia, Mexico, South Korea and the Dominican Republic.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Janice Chan of the Ripken Foundation at 410-823-0808, e-mail [jchan@ripkenfoundation.org](mailto:jchan@ripkenfoundation.org) or visit Web site, <http://worldseries.ripkenbaseball.com/>.

Post Shorts

Writing an effective IEP

Army Community Service will hold a free workshop - How to Write an Effective Individual Education Plan at ACS building 2754 Rodman Road conference room. The workshop will be held 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Sept. 20. All service members, civilians, Family members and retirees are eligible to attend this workshop.

The focus includes:

- Essential elements within an IEP
- Laws and regulations surrounding special education
- Advocating a child's special education services
- Alternative solutions

Parents are encouraged to bring a copy of their child's most recent IEP to the session.

For more information or to register, call the Exceptional Family Member program manager, 410-278-2420.

OSJA Client Services closed July 5

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Client Services Division, Legal Assistance Office will not have a walk-in service available on Thursday, July 5. Clients with any questions should contact the Legal Assistance Office at 410-278-1583 before that date. Walk-in services will resume the following Thursday.

Improving English skills

The Army Community Service Relocation Assistance Program will offer free English for Speakers of Other Languages classes for those needing a refresher course or for those with little English speaking and writing skills.

Classes will be held every Friday, 6 to 8 p.m., July 6 through Aug. 24 at ACS, building 2754 Rodman Road.

The course is open to military personnel, APG civilians, retirees, and adult Family members age 18 and older.

The class is also designed to provide foreign-born adults an opportunity to improve their English comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing skills. An instructor from Harford Community College will teach the class. Attendees must attend all eight sessions. Seating is limited, so register early.

For more information or to register, call the Relocation Readiness Office, 410-278-7474/2453.

Adult American citizenship class

The Army Community Service Relocation Assistance Program will offer a free class for military personnel or Family members, preparing to take the test for American Citizenship given by Immigration and Naturalization.

The class will be held every Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon, July 7 through Aug. 25 at ACS, building 2754 Rodman Road.

The class covers citizenship procedures, explain how to fill out the application, basic American history and the Constitution.

Attendees must attend all eight sessions to receive a Harford Community College certificate for attending a Citizenship Class. Seating is limited, so register early.

For more information or to register, call the Relocation Assistance Program, 410-278-2464/7572

AAFES gears up for Christmas in July

The AAFES Main Exchange will hold Christmas in July, from July 13 to 15. The store will remain open until midnight on July 13 and then will open 6 a.m., July 14 with regular hours on July 15. There will be gift card drawings 6 p.m. to midnight, July 13 and all day Saturday. Customers must be present to win.

Blue Cross visits APG

The APG Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has made arrangements for a claim representative of the Service Benefit Plan Blue Cross/Blue Shield to visit 9 to 11:30 a.m.,

July 10, in building 305, room 236 and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in building E-4811 (Seminar Area of Conference Center in APG South) to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. No appointment is necessary.

For more information, call Teri Wright, civilian Personnel Advisory Center, 410-278-4331.

Job vs. Career classes for teens

Army Community Service will hold Job vs. Career Classes for teens, ages 13 through 18, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., at ACS Classroom building 2754. Classes will be held July 18 and Aug. 15.

Today's workforce offers many challenges and rewards. Teens will learn the benefit of a career over a job. The ACS Employment program and Tina Mike, APGFCU Education director, will help guide teens through the job and career preparation process so they can achieve their own employment success.

Topics include:

- what employers are looking for
  - how to apply for a job
  - tips on resume writing
  - interviewing experience
- For more information or to enroll teens in this free class, call Marilyn Howard, ACS Employment Readiness, 410-278-9669

ACS holds Waiting Families Support Group meetings

The Waiting Families Support Group is scheduled for 6 to 7 p.m., Wednesdays, at Army Community Service, building 2754 Rodman Road. This group is designed to provide resource information to assist spouses and Family members remaining behind while the military sponsor serves on unaccompanied tours, extended TDY, or deployments.

Meetings will be held July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 14 and Dec. 5.

For more information, call Marilyn Howard, ACS,

building 2754 Rodman Road, 410-278-9669/7572.

SOLE holds luncheon

The International Society of Logistics (formerly Society of Logistics Engineers) will hold a luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., July 23, in Top of the Bay's Gunpowder Room featuring guest speaker David Shaffer deputy to the commander, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command. Seating is limited.

For more information, contact Larry Seed, 410-297-9550, larry.seed@msaincorp.com, or Paul Nelson, 410-436-4575, paul.nelson@us.army.mil.

WIC clinic meets weekly

The Army Community Service, in conjunction with the Harford County Health Department, operates a Women, Infants and Children Clinic every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in building 2754.

Eligible mothers and children can receive health screenings by a registered nurse, formula and food vouchers, nutrition counseling, breast feeding instruction and more. For more

information, call Diana Hayes, Parents and Children Together coordinator, 410-278-4372.

*(Editors Note: More Shorts can be seen at [www.apgnews.apg.army.mil](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil) under Shorts.)*



**BOSS News**

"Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers"

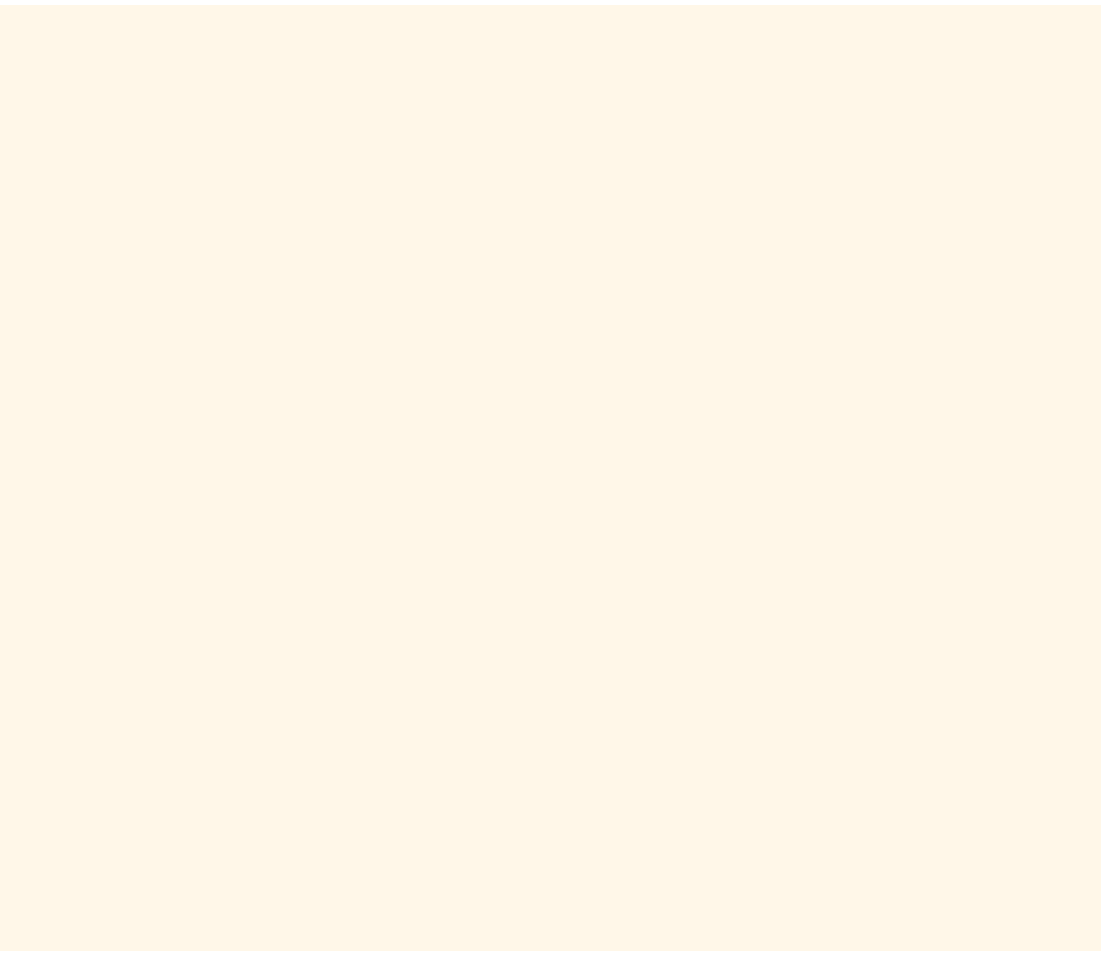
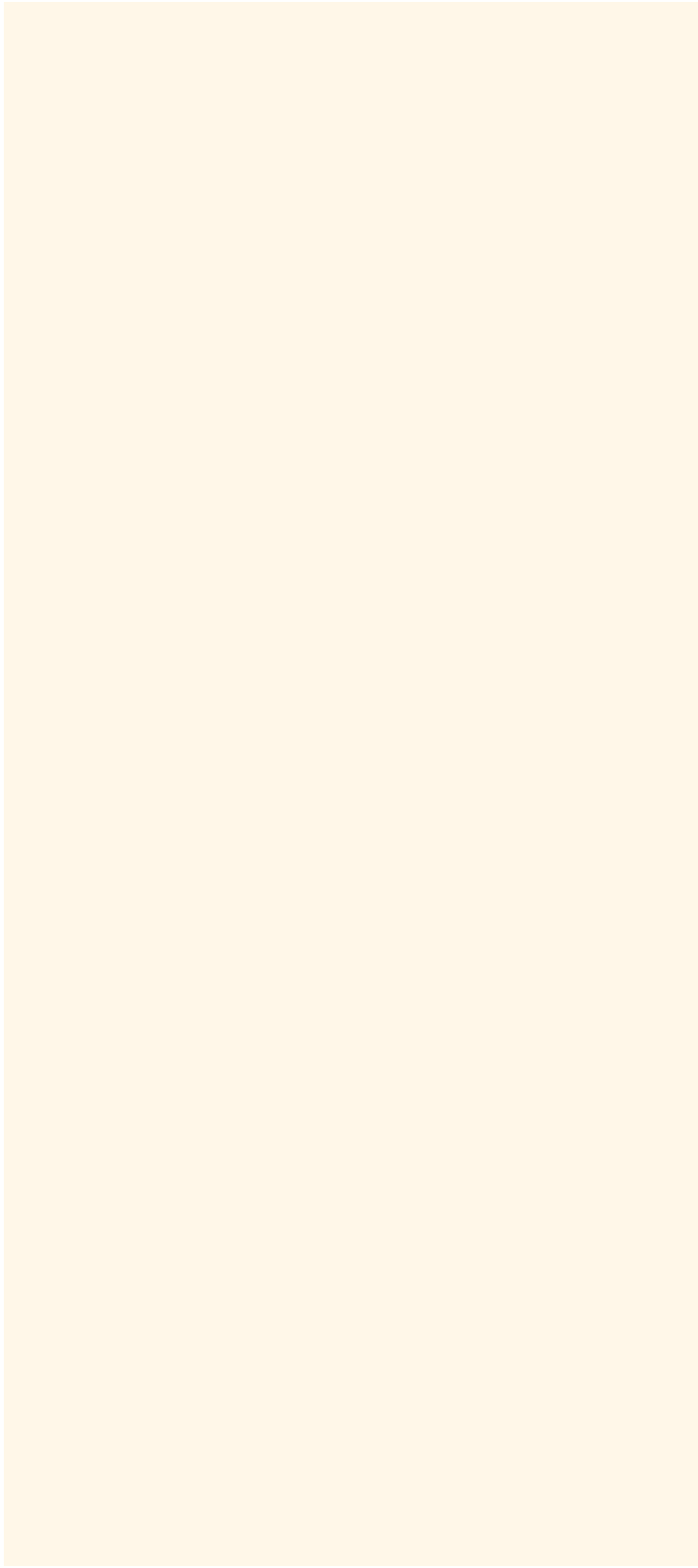
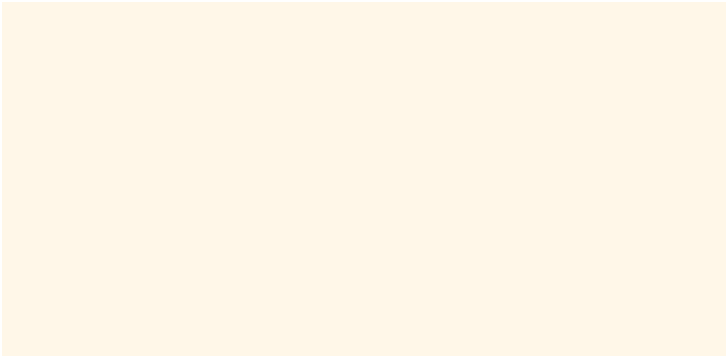
All Soldiers are welcome to attend events. Contact Sgt. Eugenia Richards, 410-278-2709, for more information on BOSS events.

**White water rafting/paintball trip**

BOSS is going on a trip to the Poconos for white water rafting and Skirmish Paintball July 28 and Aug. 18. The one-day trip costs \$54.95. Price includes all safety equipment for both rafting and paintball. Lunch can either be purchased or brought from home. Transportation will be provided. For serious inquires, a \$15 deposit is required to hold the date and the rest of the payment is due two weeks prior to trip. The deadline for the July trip is July 13 and for the August trip is Aug. 3.

**Community service**

The quarterly trip to visit the Armed Forces Retirement Home, Washington, D.C., is Aug. 15. The starting point is at the APG North Recreation Center at 6:30 a.m. The group will return no later than 5 p.m.





# American military commissaries mark their 140th anniversary

*Story by*  
**DECA HISTORIAN DR. PETER D. SKIRBUNT**  
*DeCA*

American military commissaries, the “supermarkets to the military” at bases in the United States and across the globe, will reach their 140th anniversary on July 1.

On that day in 1867, the Army was authorized by Congress to begin selling food items, called “commissary” items, “at cost,” to Soldiers of all ranks. This landmark event began the modern era of American military commissaries.

Commissaries today little resemble the warehouses that doubled as sales stores in 1867, but there are vital similarities: they still sell food items, at cost, to officers and enlisted alike, providing a savings benefit that encourages reenlistment by stretching military paychecks. They also boost morale by providing “a taste of home” to locations around the world.

In the 19th century, Army rations lacked the variety and balance necessary to maintain health. Soldiers supplemented their diets by purchasing healthful foods, such as canned fruits and vegetables, from licensed vendors known as “sutlers.” Starting in 1825, officers were allowed to buy commissary items at cost from the subsistence department, but enlisted men had to continue buying

from sutlers, who sold for a profit. The result of this class division was that enlisted men paid higher prices for nonration food items than did their officers.

During the Civil War, many Soldiers were poorly served by sutlers who overcharged or provided poor-quality goods. After the war, Congress decided that enlisted men should receive the same shopping privileges officers had already enjoyed for four decades and extended the benefit to all ranks.

At the time, no other nation provided for its enlisted men in such a fashion. The practice was wise, frugal, just and generous, as well as distinctly democratic and proudly American. At first, the stores were open to all active-duty Army personnel, and even civilians could shop at certain posts. The first stock list, in 1868, consisted of 82 items and made the sales commissaries (as they were called at that time) similar to civilian general stores of that era.

As time passed, the benefit changed and improved. Civilian post traders, who had been permitted to sell anything commissaries did not carry, were abolished in 1893, and the modern exchange system took their place in 1895. The first overseas commissaries opened in the Philippines in 1899. After the Navy and Marine

Corps opened their first commissaries in 1910, personnel from any service could patronize any commissary run by the other armed services.

Retired enlisted men became fully eligible shoppers in 1914, spouses and Family members were shopping by the 1930s (and earlier in many locations), the Air Force assumed control of Army Air Force stores in 1947-48; and in 1952, a permanent surcharge was added, enabling commissaries to pay many of their own construction costs.

Recently, in recognition of their vital contributions, increasing duties, and extended deployments, National Guard and Reserve personnel were authorized full-time commissary benefits.

In 1991, to improve efficiency and increase taxpayer savings, Congress and the Department of Defense created the Defense Commissary Agency by consolidating the military services’ separate retail grocery operations into one organization. Since then, customer savings have increased from 20 to more than 30 percent, the agency opened 89 new stores, remodeled or made major renovations to over 60 existing stores, and upgraded and modernized over 100 more.

The number of items stocked by commissaries has also increased, from about 13,000 in the largest stores in 1991 to 22,500 in the biggest stores today.

Patrick B. Nixon, DeCA’s director and chief executive officer, said commissaries have become increasingly important in a time of tighter budgets, repeated combat deployments, and increased use of the Guard and Reserve.

“The commissary benefit helps our people in uniform and their Families,” Nixon said. “When forces deploy, the Families left behind depend on their local community services, including commissaries, to see them through. With 140 years of experience, the people of the Defense Commissary Agency plan to provide and continue to improve this highly valued military benefit for many years to come.”

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## Safety

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*From front page*

The National Council on Fireworks Safety reminds all parents to be careful when using sparklers around children. More than 50 percent of sparkler related injuries happen to children under the age of 14.

The council also encourages parents to safely supervise the activities of their children when sparklers are present. While they appeal to children of all ages, sparklers are not toys.

***The Installation Safety Division offers these suggestions for a safe holiday:***

- Never allow young children to play with fireworks, and provide adult supervision if older children use fireworks.
- Never use bottle rockets.
- Never throw or point fireworks at other people.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket.
- Whether an operator or spectator, wear safety glasses or goggles.
- Never put fireworks in glass containers, tin cans or clay pots, since these objects can shatter.
- Never use illegal or home-made fireworks.
- Always have a fire extinguisher or large container of water ready to douse any fireworks that misfire.
- Never re-light a ”dud” firework (wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water).
- Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in a metal trashcan.

Today’s fireworks are primarily appreciated for their beautiful visual effects rather than explosive noise. With the enactment of rigid safety standards for consumer fireworks, a Family can enjoy a safe backyard fireworks display.

# Procurement actions for services require additional lead-time

APG DOC

Due to new regulation requirements, additional time is required to process service requirements. Customers should refer to Army FAR Supplement (AFARS) 5137.590 at <https://webportal.saalt.army.mil/saal-zp/procurement/afars.doc>.

The new approvals will become even more critical as the end of the fiscal year approaches.

The APG Directorate of Contracting will be developing templates to assist customers in preparing the required document and anticipate posting them to Web site <http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/installation/contracting.asp> by July 16.

The new requirement is applicable now and will affect service acquisitions projected to be awarded by Sept. 30.

Also, the acquisition strategy documentation is in addition to the Secretary of the Army’s Policy for Civilian Hiring and Initiation/Continuation of Contracts for Service Personnel, which requires senior com-

Performance Based	Non-Performance Based	Approval Authority	Lead-times (Days)
\$100K up to \$10M	\$100K up to \$3M	DOC, APG	05
\$10M up to \$150M	\$3M to \$10M	PARC	15
\$150M up to \$500M	Over \$10M up to \$78.5M	HCA	140
\$500M or more	Over \$78.5M	DASA (P&P)	240+

mander approval.

With few exceptions, acquisition strategy documentation and approval (referred to as AMOAS) is required for services over \$100K. The following thresholds and approval levels apply and will incrementally require additional lead time.

“Service” means the engagement of the time and effort of a contractor whose primary purpose is to perform an identifiable task, or tasks, rather than to furnish an end item of supply.

“Acquisition of services”

means one or multiple contracts or other instruments committing or obligating funds (e.g., fund transfer, placing orders under the Federal Supply Schedules or other existing contract, etc.) to acquire services for a specified requirement and includes (1) entry into a contract or any other form of agreement including, but not limited to, basic ordering agreements, blanket purchase agreements, indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contracts, and simi-

lar ordering agreements and (2) issuance of a task order or any transfer of funds to acquire a service on behalf of the DoD.

For more information, contact the chief, Contracting Division, 410-278-0869.

## Retirement

*From front page*

the ABC-C is responsible for retirement counseling. All employees are entitled to preliminary retirement counseling in anticipation of retirement and final counseling prior to the date of separation. This is true even if an employee feels he/she understands all matters pertaining to his/her retirement.

“When an employee decides to retire and submits his/her package, he/she can expect to receive final retirement counseling from an ABC-C benefits counselor before the date of retirement,” Smith said. “Although the ABC-C counselor will make contact with the employee, the employee can certainly contact the ABC-C, especially if he/she has questions concerning retirement.”

### **Annuity estimates**

An employee should not make the decision to retire without knowledge of what the expected monthly benefit will be. CPAC will ask the employee if he/she has received an annuity estimate prepared by the ABC-C within the past year. Additionally, it is important for the employee to be sure that he/she is reviewing an estimate for the specific retirement category under which he/she will retire (i.e., early optional, disability, Minimum Retirement Age + 10 years of service (MRA+10), etc.).

“This is important because an employee may be eligible for more than one category of retirement, and each is different in terms of the retirement system, computation, reductions, etc.,” Smith said.

“Employees are strongly encouraged to contact the ABC-C within one year of retirement (or anticipated retirement) to request an estimate and obtain preliminary retirement counseling.”

Although an employee can obtain estimate information through either the ABC-C’s Web or phone systems, an employee with a more involved service history needs to contact an ABC-C counselor to prepare the retirement estimate. This includes those employees with a part-time work schedule (current or past); NAF service; elected to transfer to FERS; taken a refund of retirement contributions for a past period of service; have an unpaid deposit for Post 56 military service, or an unpaid deposit for a period of nondeduction (temporary) service.

### **Application Submission Timeframe**

The recommended timeframe

for submitting a retirement application to the ABC-C is within 90-120 days of the intended retirement date.

There are many reasons why early submission is so important. Among those is to allow the ABC-C enough working time to verify retirement eligibility, identify any discrepancies concerning retirement, and allow time to provide final retirement counseling before the date of separation.

For more information, contact ABC-C, 1-877-276-9287; the ABC-C Helpdesk, DSN 856-2000/commercial 1-785-239-2000 or Teri Wright, CPAC, 410-278-4331 or e-mail [teri.wright@us.army.mil](mailto:teri.wright@us.army.mil).





# MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

## Win a getaway from MWR Recreation Centers

The Armed Forces Recreation Centers provide service members, retirees, DoD civilians and their Families a “great getaway” at four world-class destinations: Dragon Hill Lodge in Seoul, South Korea; Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch, Germany; Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii; and Shades of Green on Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., simply by visiting their Web site and entering the contest.

The grand prize consists of an all-inclusive vacation package for two, including a seven-night stay at the resort of the winner’s choice, round-trip airfare for two, a seven-day car rental and a set of luggage.



Authorized MWR patrons can also win other prizes, such as Sony digital cameras, Sony PlayStation Portables, a set of golf clubs or \$100 gift cards.

For more information or to register, visit [www.afrcresorts.com/sweepstakes](http://www.afrcresorts.com/sweepstakes) and register before Aug. 31.

## Sports

### Registering for Challenger Soccer Camp

Challenger Sports’ British soccer camps are the largest camps in the U.S. The camp includes individual skill development, professional British coaching staff, programs for all levels, daily world cup style tournament, free soccer ball, free T-shirt and a bonus British

soccer Jersey if youths register 45 days before the camp.

Soccer Camp is scheduled for July 23 through 27.

Camp for ages 4 and 5 will be held 8:30 to 10 a.m., and costs \$72 per child; ages 6 through 14 will be held 10:10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and costs \$102 per child. Camp will be held at the Youth soccer field (APG

North) on Bayside Drive.

For registration, go to [www.challengersports.com](http://www.challengersports.com) and click on find a camp, click on type of camp (British Soccer camps) type in the APG zip code (21005) and click on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

For more information, call Bill Kegley, 410-306-2297.

## Upcoming golf events

### Senior Golf Special

Ruggles Golf Course is offering a Senior Golf Special to golfers age 55 or older: play Monday through Thursday until 2:30 p.m. for \$33. This special may not be used with any other discounts. Tee time registration is recommended.

For more information, call 410-278-4794 or e-mail [david.correll@us.army.mil](mailto:david.correll@us.army.mil).

### Summer Scramble

Ruggles Golf Course will hold a Summer Scramble open to all golfers, July 21 with an 8 a.m. start. Entry fee costs \$30 for annual patrons, \$45 for authorized patrons with a value card, and \$55 for guests and includes range balls, cart, hot dog with soda on turn, appetizers with beverages and prizes.

For more information or to register, call 410-278-4794, or visit the Pro Shop at Ruggles.

## Concert

From front page

Music Association’s Duo of the Year in 2000, and received that year’s American Music Award for Favorite New [Country] Artist and the Academy of Country Music Award for Top New Vocal Group or Duo,” as well as the 2000 and 2001 Radio & Records Readers’ Poll award for Top Country Duo.

They have performed for well over a million fans and as impressive as their past has been, their future looks even brighter.

“It’s just amazing how the crowds keep getting bigger,” Gentry said. “They know all the hits. They’re singing along with us. It’s just incredible.”

“There’s no rush like it,” adds Eddie Montgomery, “no drug, no alcohol, that can give you

that kind of rush when you see 65,000 people just screaming back a song at you.”

Just like they share with their audience a love of good music, they also share an appreciation for the nation’s veterans and active duty personnel.

In 2006, for the first time, the duo was able visit troops in Kuwait, Iraq and Germany as part of a USO tour. They said the journey affected them deeply.

“It was an eye-opening experience for me,” said Troy, “seeing what our Soldiers are doing to battle terrorism and help the Iraqis and Afghans gain a better way of life.”

“I don’t ever want to hear anybody say, ‘I don’t know if this generation has got what it takes,’” Eddie said. “We’ve got the baddest men and women in the world and knowing that they’ve got our backs reminds me every day why America is and will always be the greatest country in the world.”

## Activities/Events

### Do-it-yourself New York City tours

MWR has scheduled several trips to New York City – eight hours for sightseeing, shopping, seeing a Broadway matinee, venturing into China Town and more.

Trips will take place July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20 or Nov. 17.

Cost of the trip is \$40 per person.

The bus will depart 8:25 a.m. and will return 10:30 p.m.

Open to all DoD card holders.

For more information or to register, call or visit MWR Leisure Travel Services, APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail [MWR\\_LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil](mailto:MWR_LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil).

### Visit the King Tutankhamun Museum exhibit

Spend a day with MWR in Philadelphia, Aug. 18, beginning with a visit to see King Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs Exhibit at the Franklin Institute Science Museum.

Other historical areas of interest in the beautiful city of Philadelphia will be available.

Cost of the trip is \$60 per person and includes bus transportation and admission to the King Tut exhibit.

For more information or to make reservations, call MWR Leisure Travel Services, APG

North Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail [MWR\\_LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil](mailto:MWR_LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil).

### Beat the summer heat with ‘Links to Lanes’

Nine holes of golf, two games of bowling with a bowling center meal ticket costs \$20 per player during July and August.

Participation in APG North and South must be completed within the same week.

The golf portion may be played Monday through Friday after 4:30 p.m.

The bowling portion may be completed anytime the lanes are available.

For more information on this special, call 410-278-9452 or 410-278-4041.

### See the Wiggles

See Sam, Murray, Jeff and Anthony in “Racing to the Rainbow,” 3 p.m., Aug. 10, at the Baltimore 1st Mariner Arena.

Tickets cost \$29.75.

Seats are located on 200 level.

For more information, call MWR Leisure Travel Services, APG Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907, or e-mail [mwr\\_registration@apg.army.mil](mailto:mwr_registration@apg.army.mil).

### Aberdeen Ironbirds tickets

Tickets are available for the following Aberdeen Ironbirds games:

- Williamsport Crosscutters, 7:05 p.m., July 11,

- Staten Island Yankees (Military Appreciation Night), 7:05 p.m., Aug. 16,
- Oneonta Tigers, 7:05 p.m., Sept. 6

Tickets cost \$13.50 per person and include a complimentary Ironbirds hat.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call MWR Leisure Travel Services at APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail [mwr\\_registration@apg.army.mil](mailto:mwr_registration@apg.army.mil) or visit Web site [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com).

### MWR begins daily bus trips to Atlantic City

Roll the bones on daily trips to Atlantic City. MWR Leisure Travel Services offers daily bus service to Trump Taj Mahal and Tropicana casinos for ages 21 and over.

Cost of the trip to Trump Taj Mahal is \$28 per person with \$22 back in cash and a \$5 buffet coupon. Cost of the trip to Tropicana Casino is \$6, no bonus back.

The bus will leave Vitali’s Restaurant, Best Western in Edgewood at 9 a.m. and return at 9 p.m.

Customers should note that the trips are selling out two weeks in advance. Call ahead to reserve a seat.

For more information, call MWR Leisure Travel Services at Aberdeen Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail [mwr\\_registration@apg.army.mil](mailto:mwr_registration@apg.army.mil).

## Swimming pool operations

### Pool passes and lessons on sale now

#### OLYMPIC POOL, BUILDING 3325

Daily operation: Through Aug. 26

Labor Day weekend: Sept. 1 through 3

Closing date: Monday, Sept. 3

#### Daily operation schedule

Child & Youth Services Day Camp: 9 to 11:30 a.m. through Aug. 17

Open swim hours: 12:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The lap swim lane is available during standard hours.

Weekend operation schedule: Open swim: 12:30 to 6:30 p.m.

#### SHORE POOL, BUILDING 2031

No open swim schedule.

Lap swim, swim lessons, drown proofing and rentals only.

Swimming lessons: Through Aug. 10; Levels 1-6, Adult, Parent/Toddler are scheduled daily. (Determined by customer demand.)

Lap swim: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., through June 29

#### BAYSIDE POOL, BUILDING E-4655

Operates on same schedule as the Olympic Pool.

Weekend hours: 12:30 to 6:30 p.m.

#### Daily operation schedule

CYS Day Camp: 9 to 11 a.m. through Aug. 17

Open swim hours: 12:30 to 6:30 p.m.

#### POOL PASS FEES

Daily.....

Under 5 .....

Guest of eligible patron.....

5 and under.....

Active duty E1 – E4.....

Lap swim.....

#### 30-day pass

Individual

E1–E4.....

All others.....

Family

E1–E4.....

All others.....

Season pass

Individual

E1–E4..... \$40

All others ..... \$85

Family

E1- E4 ..... \$80

All others ..... \$175

Season passes on sale at the Outdoor Recreation Equipment Resource Center in APG North, 410-278-4124, and at the Hoyle Gym in APG South, 410-436-3375.

#### SWIMMING LESSON FEES

Lesson location: Shore Pool; cost is \$50

\*10% discount for each additional child in a session.

\*10% discount for each additional session



## 90th Anniversary Celebration Calendar of Events

(All dates are subject to change and weather conditions.)

### July

- 26, Army Community Service Birthday Picnic, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### August

- TBA

### September

- 29, Army Concert Tour

### October

- TBA

(Editor’s note: This calendar will be updated as necessary. New or changed items will appear in italic bold print.)

### November

- 10, APG 90th Anniversary Gala, Ripken Stadium, 7 to 11 p.m., for more information, call 410-278-1150. *Exhibitors welcome.*
- 15, Military Family Movie, ACS, 410-278-4372, 6 to 9 p.m.

### December

- 5, ACS Christmas Party/Tree Lighting Ceremony, 410-278-4372, 6 to 9 p.m.

Army Entertainment and  
Aberdeen Proving Ground MWR  
present



MONTGOMERY  
GENTRY

with Special Guests  
Saturday, September 29

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Tickets On Sale Soon.  
Watch for Early Bird  
Ticket Specials...  
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For details go to

[www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com)



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## APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

Building 2342

### Week of June 25

Special #1: Two hot dogs, French fries, one cookie and soda for \$5.25.

Special #2: Grilled ham and cheese, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$4.25.

For more information or to place an order, call 410-278-4041. Orders must be placed before 10:30 a.m.







# Enjoying a healthy and safe summer

KUSAHC

Many readers may recall twentieth century composer George Gershwin's famous lyrics: "Summertime, and the living is easy..." While most Americans associate the upcoming summer season with outdoor fun - vacations, camp, cookouts, holidays, and a myriad of activities in warm sunny weather - they are less likely to think about the hidden dangers this fun might conceal.

Parents and children are reminded that proper planning and safety awareness will ensure that this summer will be a happy memory maker.



## Limiting sun exposure

More than one million cases of skin cancer are diagnosed annually in the United States; 20 people die of skin cancer every day.

Dermatology experts report that 90 percent of these skin cancers are attributed to cumulative sun exposure.

The incidence of all types of skin cancers continues to increase in young people; this trend is especially worrisome to pediatric and dermatology experts.

Since the risk of developing skin cancer is doubled if a person has had five or more sunburns in a lifetime,

and the risk of life-threatening melanoma is doubled with just one blistering sunburn in childhood, it is imperative to prevent sun exposure in children as well as to acquire good preventive habits for a lifetime of sun safety.

Skin cancers can be prevented by limiting sun exposure. Both the American Academy of Dermatology and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend three simple measures: avoid exposure during peak hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (shade or indoors); protect the skin with clothing (cotton, and a cap with a forward-facing brim); and use sunscreen generously.

The AAP also suggests that children wear sunglasses; check the label for ones which will block at least 99 percent of UV light. Sunscreen should be applied thoroughly to all sun-exposed areas about 30 minutes prior to going outside, and re-applied every two hours. Additional sunscreen should be rubbed on after sweating or swimming. Use caution around reflective surfaces, such as water, which can reflect most of the sun. High altitudes will intensify the sun's rays; clouds will permit damaging sunlight as well.

The AAP states that sunscreens marked SPF 15 are sufficient if applied according to the above parameters. Products should be waterproof and broad-spectrum (blocking UVA and UVB), and children should use products designed for them. Caution should be used in applying sunscreens to infants under six months. The AAP

also recommends the application of zinc oxide to the nose, cheeks, tops of the ears and other areas often missed by sunscreen lotions.

A special word of caution is extended to teenagers involving the use of tanning beds or booths. The risk of developing melanoma is increased by 75 percent in persons who use tanning facilities before the age of 35. These individuals are also more than twice as likely to develop the less aggressive skin cancers. Since newer sunlamps can be 15 times more powerful than the sun's rays this practice is especially dangerous.



## Practicing water safety

Many Families visit local beaches or community swimming pools during the hot Maryland summer or take advantage of opportunities for boating and other water sports. Parents should remember that children should be supervised at all times when in or around the water.

Inflatable swim rings or water wings are not safety devices and may cause children to venture into deeper waters. Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Devices should be worn by all persons at all times while enjoying Maryland waterways.

As with motor vehicles, drinking

and piloting a boat make for a dangerous combination.



## Fireworks

Independence Day celebrations can provide wonderful Family memories, but can also be associated with unwanted trips to the emergency room or serious injuries.

Due to the hazards of combustibles, fireworks demonstrations are best left to the experts in community venues.

Almost half of home fireworks accidents involve children. Additionally, more home fires on July 4th are caused by fireworks than by any other cause.

As fireworks injuries are preventable, the AAP recommends that parents resist the temptation to purchase fireworks for backyard displays.

Many Maryland counties, including Harford, prohibit the use of fireworks at home.



## Biking safely

Bicycling is great exercise

for the whole Family. At a time when childhood obesity is a significant problem in this country, Family bike outings provide inexpensive quality Family time and lots of great exercise. Cyclists are reminded that all riders must wear helmets. Studies have shown that the most important factor in teaching children to always don their helmet is the example set by their parents. If parents wear helmets, children will also.



## Heat safety

Vigorous outdoor exercises should be limited when the heat and humidity are high. Fluids should be replenished often, about a cup of water every 20 minutes for an active teen, or 5 ounces for a smaller child. Children should be well-hydrated before the start of active play. Light colored loose fitting cotton clothing should be worn on hot days.

For more information on summer safety, readers are directed to [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org), [www.skincancer.org](http://www.skincancer.org) or [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

# Rapid access to care for Warriors in Transition

Story by  
**JERRY HARBEN**  
U.S. Army Medical Command

Army hospitals will provide routine tests and treatment more rapidly for Warriors in Transition and Soldiers within 90 days of deploying or within 180 days of return from deployment, according to a U.S. Army Medical Command policy memorandum issued May 30.

The new policy shortens the access to care standards for routine primary care from seven days to three working days, and for specialty care from 28 days to seven working days (three working days in some cases of initial specialty care). It also establishes standards of seven days for diagnostic tests and 14 days for medically indicated non-emergency surgeries required to reach optimum medical

benefit or fitness for duty status.

The access to care standard for urgent care remains 24 hours.

Warriors in Transition are defined as Soldiers who meet the qualifications for medical hold, medical holdover or active duty medical extension; and Active Component Soldiers who require a medical evaluation board or have complex medical needs requiring more than six months of treatment. The term does not normally apply to Soldiers in initial entry training, advanced individual training or one station unit training.

Warriors in Transition are to receive an initial evaluation screening within one working day after entering a Warrior Transition Unit, the organizations that provide command and control

support for such Soldiers at Army hospitals.

"This population has a need for expedited medical care," said Maj. Bill Judd, senior health policy analyst in Medical Command's Directorate of Health Policy and Services. "We want to quickly return these Soldiers to duty, or transition them to civilian life. We developed this policy to ensure soldiers can rapidly access the care they need."

Every Army hospital now will dedicate at least one physician to the medical evaluation board process, which determines if injured Soldiers meet standards to remain in the Army. Warriors in Transition will be assigned primary care managers and nurse care managers, and at some facilities social workers, to help them complete their treat-

ment and navigate the health-care system. Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officers, who counsel Soldiers undergoing physical disability evaluation, will be certified through standardized training.

"We understand that to speed these Soldiers through the system and also meet access standards for other beneficiaries, we might have to refer more patients to network civilian providers," Judd said.

Soldiers' Families or retired service members who cannot be seen at a military facility receive subsidized care through the TRICARE network of more than 220,000 civilian health-care providers and 55,000 retail pharmacies.

The changes should be in effect by the end of July.

# Easy access to Medical Evaluation Board information

Story by  
**JERRY HARBEN**  
US Army MEDCOM

Injured Soldiers whose military futures are being considered by Medical Evaluation Boards now have a means to track the process and ensure accuracy of relevant information through the MyMEB page on Army Knowledge Online, the Army's Internet information network.

Medical Evaluation Boards are conducted at medical treatment facilities to determine if injured Soldiers meet medical retention standards set in Army Regulation 40-501. MEBs differ from Physical Evaluation Boards, which are conducted for the Army by Human Resources Command to determine if Soldiers can continue to serve and, if they cannot, to what disability benefits the

Soldiers are entitled.

"This will provide Soldiers with an easy tool to view the progress of their own boards," said Michael P. Griffin, deputy director of U.S. Army Medical Command's Patient Administration Division.

MyMEB can be reached online at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/417118> using a Soldier's AKO user identity and password. Individual board information will be available only with matching Social Security number.

Data is automatically downloaded onto the site from the Medical Evaluation Board Internal Tracking Tool, or MEBITT, database. A Soldier can verify dates of physical exams and consults, or when reports and appeals have been initiated or approved. Down the left side of the screen are information links to explain the

MEB process and terminology.

If a Soldier finds something inaccurate or questionable in the information, he or she should call it to the attention of the assigned Physician Evaluation Board Liaison Officer who is listed at top right on the screen.

MyMEB was developed by medical, information management and administrative personnel to address a perceived need for Soldiers to know more about the MEB process and how it affects them. A focus group of injured Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center helped evaluate and fine tune the site.

A limited release of the MyMEB occurred on June 15. This limited release was designed to solicit feedback from a focus group of injured Soldiers prior to full release.

# Prevention

From front page

female friend to accompany them," she said.

The Department of the Army released a proclamation last April during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The proclamation stated that sexual assault is a crime and contrary to Army values and mission readiness. Leaders and Soldiers have the responsibility to prevent and reduce the associated risks of sexual assaults from occurring in their units and work environment.

When reporting sexual assault, the Army has restricted and unrestricted reporting for active duty Soldiers, according to James. This gives a victim the choice for making a complaint without going directly to law enforcement officials. However, it is important who the victim talks to regarding an incident of sexual assault.

"A restricted report provides confidentiality to the victim without making a complaint to law enforcement," James said. "The victim can make a restricted report to medical authorities, the Chaplain, Unit Victim Advocate and the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. However, if the victim reports an incident to their commander, the commander is then obligated to notify CID. If the victim tells their best friend and the friend notifies law enforcement, an investigation will be initiated."

If a victim wants to report a sexual assault to law enforcement it should be done as soon as possible after the assault. Victims can notify Military Police, civilian police, their chain of command or CID directly. The victim should remember to preserve as much evidence as possible.

CID officials recognize how traumatic and difficult a sexual assault can be for victims, but at the same time stress how

vital evidence can be.

"It is very important for us to obtain as much information and evidence as possible and as soon as possible," said James. "The victim should not shower, or brush their teeth or touch or disturb anything at the crime scene. If possible, it's important a victim writes down every detail they can remember right away."

"If the victim has sustained an injury, they should seek immediate medical attention and let the medical personnel contact the appropriate law enforcement agency," said James.

"Bottom line, we want to do everything possible to ensure we bring to justice anyone who has committed a sexual assault and more importantly we want to help prevent it from happening in the first place," she said.

For more information on policy, prevention and training, visit the CID Web site, [www.cid.army.mil](http://www.cid.army.mil), and click on the Victim's Assistance link.

## Minimizing the chance of becoming a victim

Provided by CID and the National Crime Prevention Council

- Be aware of surroundings — who's out there and what's going on.
- "Being prepared" means staying in groups, traveling with a buddy and knowing there is safety in numbers.
- Never leave a house key at an auto repair shop with a car key.
- Walk with confidence. The more confident a person looks, the stronger they appear.
- Always safeguard personal information.
- Remember: "No" means "No." If an individual does not want to be intimate with another person, tell him or her clearly. Use a confident voice and body posture.
- Match body language to words - don't laugh and smile while saying "No."
- Do not just "go along" for the wrong reasons.
- Watch out for warning signs or "red flags" from a partner in intimate situations.
- Don't let drugs or alcohol cloud or hinder judgment.
- Be assertive — don't let anyone violate individual space.
- Don't prop open self-locking doors.
- Watch keys. Don't lend them. Don't leave them. Don't lose them. And don't put

name and address on the key ring.

- Use the buddy system, especially if going out at night and alcohol is to be consumed.
- Watch out for unwanted visitors. Know who's on the other side of the door before opening it.
- Be wary of isolated spots, like underground parking garages, offices after business hours, and apartment laundry rooms.
- Avoid walking or jogging alone, especially at night. Vary route. Stay in well-traveled, well-lit areas.
- Have key ready to use before reaching the door — home, car or work.
- Park in well-lit areas and lock the car, even if only for a few minutes.
- Drive on well-traveled streets, with doors and windows locked.
- Never hitchhike or pick up a hitchhiker.
- Keep the car in good shape with plenty of gas in the tank.
- In case of car trouble, call for help on a cellular phone. If a phone is not available, put the hood up, lock the doors, and put a banner in the rear mirror that says, "Help. Call police."



# Career training scholarships available through Hire A Hero program

www.hireahero.com

The non-profit Hire A Hero program is accepting applications to award 122 academic scholarships to the military community.

The scholarships are available to active and transitioning military personnel, members of the National Guard and Reserves, veterans and their Family members.

Lincoln Educational Services Corporation, the title sponsor of Hire a Hero, will provide training in degree and diploma programs in automotive technology, health sciences, skilled trades, business, information technology and hospitality services.

“Young veterans are almost three times more unemployed than their civilian counterparts,” said Dan Caulfield, Hire A Hero executive director.

Caulfield said that because service members primarily network with each other, they usually don’t come in contact with those who can help them in their civilian careers after the military.

“We want to provide our American heroes with a network of supporters who will help them find quality jobs and training opportunities,” he said.

“Although the military provides fabulous training and

skills, some service members need additional certifications or desire a different career path. With these scholarships, Lincoln will provide our military service members with more choices on how to transition smoothly back into civilian life.”

**Three types of scholarships are available to those who qualify:**

- **Hire A Hero Front Line Scholarship**

Eight scholarships are to be awarded to United States military service members serving overseas fighting the Global War on Terror. One hundred percent of tuition covered for each recipient to complete Associate of Applied Science Degrees in Criminal Justice or Allied Health. Courses will be completed online

- **Hire A Hero National Guard Scholarship**

Fifty-four scholarships will be awarded to members of the National Guard or their spouses. Up to \$10,000 will be given to each recipient to help cover tuition fees. Areas of study to choose from include automotive technology, health sciences, skilled trades, business, information technology, criminal justice and hospitality services.

- **Hire A Hero Military Community Scholarship**

Sixty scholarships will be awarded to honorably discharged veterans and their spouses. Two thousand dollars will be given to each recipient to help cover tuition fees. Areas of study to choose from include automotive technology, health sciences, skilled trades, business, information technology, criminal justice and hospitality services.

All American service members, veterans and spouses are encouraged to apply for the scholarships. The application process involves registering on the Hire A Hero Web site for free at www.hireahero.com and uploading a written essay or short video. All applications are due on or before Aug. 17, and winners will be announced in late August.

**About the Armed Forces Support Foundation - Hire A Hero Program:**

The Armed Forces Support Foundation was established in 1998 and is organized as a non-profit entity under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. Through the foundation’s Hire A Hero program, active and transitioning military personnel, veterans, members of the National Guard and Reserves and their spouses have access to

a unique online community that helps them network into quality job opportunities and training. The Hire A Hero online community is powered by volunteers who have connections to jobs and training in their hometowns. Although AFSF was made a legislative priority by NGAUS and was officially noticed in Senate Bill S3833, the foundation relies on the generosity of the American people to support it. For more information, visit [www.hireahero.com](http://www.hireahero.com).

**About Lincoln Educational Services Corporation**

“Lincoln was founded in 1946 to provide vocational training to GIs returning home from WWII,” said Dave Carney, Lincoln CEO. “Lincoln continues its commitment to the military community and the Hire A Hero cause, with these scholarships.”

Lincoln is a leading and diversified for-profit provider of career-oriented post-secondary education. The company offers recent high school graduates and working adults degree and diploma programs in five principal areas of study: automotive technology, health sciences (which includes programs for licensed practical nursing, medical administrative

assistants, medical assistants, dental assistants, and pharmacy technicians), skilled trades, business and information technology and hospitality services.

Lincoln has provided the workforce with skilled technicians since its inception in 1946. It currently oper-

ates 37 campuses in 17 states under five brands: Lincoln College of Technology, Lincoln Technical Institute, Nashville Auto-Diesel College, Southwestern College and Euphoria. Lincoln had a combined average enrollment of approximately 18,100 students.

## DoD announces ROTC Language, Culture Project

DoD

The Department of Defense has announced the award of four grants totaling \$2 million to Indiana University, San Diego State University, the University of Mississippi and the University of Texas at Austin as part of the new Reserve Officer Training Corps Language and Culture Project.

“The department’s goal is to expose ROTC cadets and midshipmen to the study of languages and cultures of the world critical to national security,” said David S.C. Chu, under secretary of defense for Personnel and Readiness. “Through this innovative effort we hope ROTC cadets and midshipmen will have the opportunity to learn a foreign language which will prepare them for future duties as commissioned officers.”

As part of this project, Indiana University will offer scholarships for study at its prestigious summer institute in languages including: Arabic, Russian, Azeri, Kazakh, Pashto, Tajik, Turkmen, Uyghur and Uzbek.

San Diego State University plans to re-shape its military science minor while drawing on the resources of the community around it to teach different dialects of Arabic as well as Farsi and Russian. The University of Mississippi will offer opportunities for the study of Chinese including summers of study abroad. The University of Texas at Austin will invest in material and curriculum to expand its programs in Arabic and Farsi.

While the scope and approaches of the projects differ, additional components

include study abroad and scholarship opportunities, distance learning and other technology, and additional tutoring and mentoring.

The project’s aim is to increase cadet exposure to and study of critical languages as well as to enhance language proficiency and cultural awareness and expertise.

The ROTC project is overseen for DoD by the National Security Education Program, which has a distinguished track record in partnering with U.S. higher education to enhance opportunities for students to learn critical languages.

NSEP oversees the National Flagship Language Program and all participants in the ROTC effort will have access to curriculum and best practices from flagship universities.



# Soldiers bond with veterans at Perry Point Antique Car Cruise

Story by  
**HEATHER TASSMER**  
APG News

Soldiers from Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course classes 27-07 and 28-07 spent quality time with veterans during the fifth-annual Perry Point Veterans Affairs Medical Center's Antique Car Cruise June 10.

About 35 Soldiers escorted veterans from the nursing home care units to the car cruise where they saw various antique cars including corvettes and camaros. They also listened to nostalgic music from the '50s provided by disc jockey Mario Rocco.

In addition to bonding with veterans, the Soldiers showed off some dance moves to songs such as "My Girl" by The Temptations and "Stayin' Alive" by The BeeGees. They also took part in The Electric Slide and the Chicken Dance.

Staff Sgt. Sara George, senior small group leader said this is the fourth or fifth year BNCOC students have attended the car cruise.

"This is a good chance for us to give back to the veterans," George said. "They have already done so much for us."

"This is a new experience for us," said Staff Sgt. Pablo Pena, adding that attending the event was beneficial for both the Soldiers and the veterans.

"This is a way of giving back to the veterans and is good for us because we can learn from them. They have a lot of stories to tell and can share their experiences with us," Pena said.

The veterans said they had fun as well.

"This is a very good event," said Melvin Topa, a hospitalized veteran from one of the nursing home care units. "I like seeing the cars every year."

Ginny Stephan of Pasadena, Md., came up with the idea for the car show five years ago in remembrance of her father, Saverio Anthony Fiore, who served in the Army for 30 years.

"I wanted to do something to honor him and honor the military," she said.

With the help of Nancy McLaughlin, Diversional Activities coordinator for Recreation Therapy who orga-



Photos by HEATHER TASSMER  
Staff Sgt. Pablo Pena participates in the Chicken Dance.

nized the event, and many donations from various organizations, the residents can experience nostalgia and socialize with attendees.

McLaughlin said that last year 1,000 people attended the car show and about 600 people attended this year.

"This is a wonderful event for the vets," she said. "It brings back good memories for them."

McLaughlin also thanked the Soldiers for helping the veterans.

"I don't know what we would do without them," she said. "Many of our nursing home care residents were provided the opportunity to attend this special event because of the additional escort support provided by the Soldiers from APG."

"Through the generous donations of the car clubs, community and veterans service organizations, attendees were treated to hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages," said



Photo by TONY FINLAY, MEDICAL MEDIA PRODUCTION SERVICE, PERRY POINT VA MEDICAL CENTER  
Staff Sgt. Suzanne Clark, Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, and Helen McLaughlin, hospitalized veteran on Ward 9A, Perry Point VA Medical Center, stop to take a look at one of the more than 150 cars during the June 10 Antique Car Cruise at the facility. McLaughlin and Clark joined more than 400 fellow veterans, community volunteers and employees who had the opportunity to chat with the antique car owners and gain information about the unique designs and history of each vehicle.

Margaret Hornberger, community resources development specialist, Office of Public and Community Relations

Point VAMC.

In addition, she said, the car clubs are wonderful because they allow attendees to sit in and touch the cars.

Maryland car clubs that participated in the event were Bel Air Corvette Club; Lost in the '50s, Glen Burnie; Free State Corvette Club, Ocean City and Chesapeake Corvette Club, Baltimore.

Clubs from Delaware and Pennsylvania also showcased antique cars.

The Maryland clubs donated \$750 to the medical center, she said.

"This is the kind of event we like to do," said Mike Weil, president of the Bel Air Corvette Club. "It allows us to give something back to veterans. A lot of our members are veterans, and we truly believe in these events."

Members of the club distributed the refreshments for the car cruise, Weil said.



From left, Staff Sgt. Sara George, senior small group leader for the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, and BNCOC students, Staff Sgts. Pablo Pena, Ricardo Vargas and Diya Shakoor, let loose in a dance line.



Staff Sgt. Gerald Sewell shows off some disco-era moves to "Stayin' Alive" during a dance competition.



Staff Sgt. Pablo Pena and Staff Sgt. Ricardo Vargas check out a Pontiac during the Antique Car Cruise.



This 1968 Camaro covered with patriotic designs belongs to Will and Betty Hilditch of Pasadena. Will, a Vietnam veteran, designed the Camaro in honor of those who sacrificed their lives for the nation. The patriotic theme continues underneath the hood with a Soldier statue and American and British flags.